

The Sentry-go Monitoring System Publishing Web Reports

Last Updated Wednesday, 04 November 2009

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Be Proactive, Not Reactive!

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Symbols

Thank you for choosing Sentry-go® as your monitoring solution for Windows. In this guide, the following symbols are used to denote specific items ...



Important information which should be noted – it may affect what you are trying to do.



Additional information relating to the operation being described is shown.


Background


The Sentry-go Monitoring System contains a fully integrated web server, allowing both static & dynamic web reports to be generated directly from the monitor. However, there may be times when you wish to access these reports from an alternate web server machine – e.g. if Sentry-go is running inside a firewall and is itself inaccessible from the outside world, but you have a dedicated web server for external access.

In this case you can configure Sentry-go to automatically publish reports to your external web server (such as Microsoft's Internet Information Services) periodically, allowing access to Sentry-go Web reports from there.

What can be Published ?

Specifically you can periodically publish read-only versions the following reports/files ...

Name	Description
All Image files	<p>All image files can be copied to the target server each time the monitor started, if requested.</p> <p> These files are required in order to render the HTML reports correctly on the external web server.</p> <p>Images are copied to the same directory as the web pages themselves. The pages are updated automatically to reference this new location.</p>
SgoMntrStatusRO.htm	The status of all checks at the time the report is generated.
SgoMntrErrorsRO.htm	Recent alerts generated by the Sentry-go monitor.
SgoMntrActivityRO.htm	The monitor's current activity.
SgoMntrNetworkStatusRO.htm	The current status of network checks, if configured.
SgoMntrControlRO.htm	The Sentry-go system summary
SgoMntrPerfHistoryRO.htm	The performance history report (if available & configured)

 When published, the report's name is automatically changed from ".sgp" - the Sentry-go file extension to the more common ".htm".

Published reports are modified to make them read-only. Links are also updated accordingly.

Accessing Published Reports

How you access published reports will depend on the configuration of the external web server, but typically you will simply need to specify the URL of the site and the appropriate report name. The report name (.HTM file) will be one of those listed above.

How Published Reports Differ from the Originals

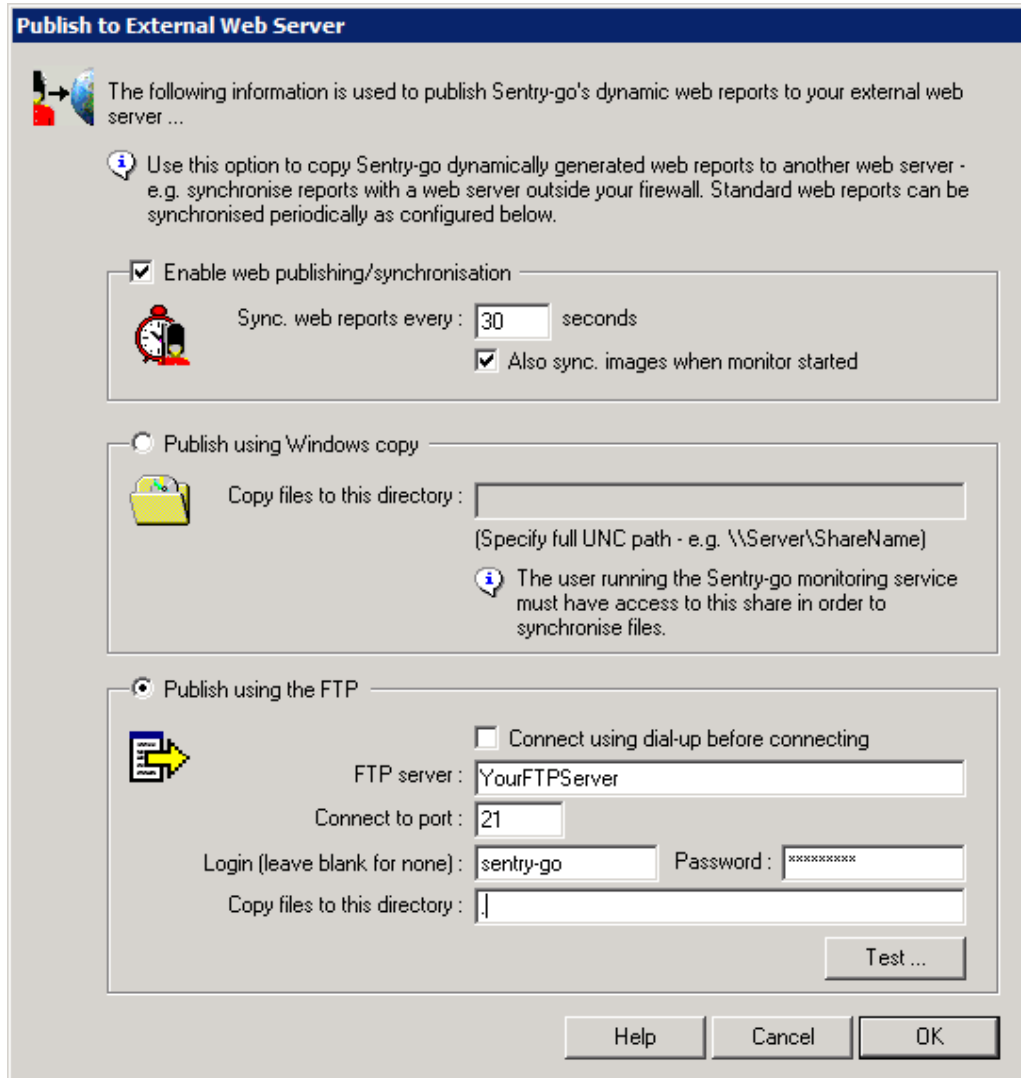
During the publishing process, the following changes are made ...

- Reports are renamed – the name is suffixed with RO (read only) and the “.SGP” file extension is changed to “.HTM”.
- Some links are disabled – e.g. those referencing unavailable reports or resources on the Sentry-go monitoring server.
- Help links ([?]) are disabled as these reference resources on the Sentry-go monitoring server.
- Some links are replaced – e.g. those referencing reports that are now available in read-only format on the target web server.
- Some buttons & options are removed – e.g. those requiring access to resources on the Sentry-go monitoring server.
- Graphics are modified to reference the same directory as the report itself, not the “images” directory as used by Sentry-go’s integrated web server.

The above process does not alter the original Sentry-go reports. These are still available by accessing Sentry-go’s web server directly from your browser or via the Client Console.

Configuring Web Publishing

To configure web publishing, simply select the monitor you wish to configure from the Client Console & click configure. From the resulting window, select the “Settings” tab, then click the “publishing ...” button in order to display the following below.



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Publish to External Web Server". It contains the following elements:


- Title Bar:** Publish to External Web Server
- Introduction:** "The following information is used to publish Sentry-go's dynamic web reports to your external web server ..."
- Information Icon:** "Use this option to copy Sentry-go dynamically generated web reports to another web server - e.g. synchronise reports with a web server outside your firewall. Standard web reports can be synchronised periodically as configured below."
- Enable web publishing/synchronisation:** A checked checkbox. Below it, "Sync. web reports every : 30 seconds" and a checked checkbox for "Also sync. images when monitor started".
- Publish using Windows copy:** An unselected radio button. Below it, "Copy files to this directory : [text box]" and "(Specify full UNC path - e.g. \\Server\ShareName)". An information icon notes: "The user running the Sentry-go monitoring service must have access to this share in order to synchronise files."
- Publish using the FTP:** A selected radio button. Below it, "Connect using dial-up before connecting" (unchecked checkbox), "FTP server : YourFTPServer", "Connect to port : 21", "Login (leave blank for none) : sentry-go", "Password : [masked]", and "Copy files to this directory : [text box]". A "Test ..." button is located at the bottom right of this section.
- Buttons:** "Help", "Cancel", and "OK" buttons at the bottom of the dialog.

Enable web publishing/synchronisation

Tick this option to enable web publishing functionality. When enabled, Sentry-go will periodically generate read-only reports (see above) and copy them to the external web server's directory as defined below.


Sync. reports every (secs)

This value determines how often reports are generated & synchronised with the target server.

-  The lower the value, the more up to date the target server's Sentry-go reports will be. However, additional system resources will be required in order to generate & copy them more frequently.


Also sync. images when monitor started

Tick this option (recommended) to ensure the latest image files are copied to the target server each time the Sentry-go monitor is started.


-  If one or more image files are missing, the generated files may not be rendered correctly by the host web server. Images are only copied when the monitor is started or reconfigured, they are not copied every time a report is published.

Publish using Windows Copy

Select this option if you wish to copy files using a standard copy operation via a UNC path. For example, if your target web server's directory is available on the network via a share – e.g. \\ServerName\ShareName or \\ServerName\ShareName\FolderName.


-  To use this option, the user running the Sentry-go monitoring service must have permission & access to the path below.

The standard system user normally used to run local services may not have permission to access the remote drive. In this case, run the service as a domain user account and grant access rights to the specified share on the target server.

-  If the target server is outside a firewall, this may also need to be configured to allow the copy operation to proceed correctly.

Copy web reports to this directory


Enter the full path, including server name of the directory you wish to copy web reports & images to.

-  This will be the directory used by the external web server to display Sentry-go generated reports – e.g. the physical directory configured as a Virtual Directory if using Microsoft's Internet Information Services.

All files, including images are copied to the same directory.


Publish using FTP

Select this option if you wish to use FTP file transfers to copy files to the target server. This is often preferred if you are using a non-Windows based web server (e.g. Unix), your server is outside a firewall or on a different network.

-  To use this option, your FTP server and the user configured to login to it must have access to the directory used by the external web server.

Copy web reports to this directory

Enter the path you wish to FTP the web reports & images to.

 This will be the directory used by the external web server to display Sentry-go generated reports.

All files, including images are FTP'd to the same directory.

Connect using dial-up networking before synchronising files


Tick this option if your server isn't permanently connected to the network & you want Sentry-go to use dial-up to connect prior to connecting to the FTP server.

FTP Server

This is the name or IP-address of the FTP server you wish to use in order to perform the file transfer.

Connect to port

FTP server's listen on a given port for inbound requests from client PCs or other servers. The default port for FTP servers is port 21. However, if you know your FTP server uses a different port, this can be specified here.

 If in doubt, this value should be set to 21.

Login & Password

These fields allow you to specify the user and password used to access the FTP site. If no login is required, you can leave these fields blank. Otherwise, enter the name/password that you would enter when prompted by your FTP client.

 If no user/password is specified and the FTP server requests one, the connection will fail.

Testing FTP Connectivity

If you are configuring web publishing using an FTP transfer, you can optionally check connectivity to the defined FTP server as well as write access to the defined directory by clicking the “Test” button. When selected, the Client Console connects to the target monitoring server (the server being configured) in order to run the test, the results of which are then displayed in the resulting web page.



In order to check the configuration, the target Sentry-go monitor must be running with web reports enabled.

No files are published when the test is performed. Only connectivity to the FTP server and access to the defined FTP directory are checked at this stage.

The parameters, along with the test results are shown on the web page. In some cases, errors may be obvious and easily corrected; in others, additional diagnostic information may be found in the Sentry-go log file, accessible on the server or via the web reports menu.

For more information on the Sentry-go log file, see [Sentry-go - Configuring Logging Options](#).

More Information, Help & Support

More information can be found in the guides that accompany the Sentry-go software. You can also access the following resources ...

- For the very latest information & product updates, please visit <http://www.Sentry-go.com>
- For sales advice, please e-mail Sales@Sentry-go.com
- For technical support, please e-mail Support@Sentry-go.com



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